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**MEETING  
PAPER**



## **THE JEFFERSON ISLAND MINE FLOODING REVISITED**

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## **ABSTRACT**

### **THE JEFFERSON ISLAND MINE FLOODING REVISITED**

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On November 20, 1980, the Jefferson Island rock salt mine in south Louisiana was abruptly flooded. Based on a rough estimate of mine volume, around eight hundred million to one billion cubic feet (23 to 28 X10<sup>6</sup> m<sup>3</sup>) of water and soil drained into the mine in a period of less than twelve hours. The rapid rate of drainage caused dramatic effects in overlying Lake Peigneur and the ground surface. The authors were underground in the mine when the flooding alarm was signaled, and were safely evacuated along with the regular mining crew. This paper includes an introductory summary of the background of the Jefferson Island mine; an eyewitness account of events as viewed by the authors during the flooding; and an analysis of the effects of the flooding on surface subsidence over the mine.

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